

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/626,954

Examiner

Richard Woo

Applicant(s)

RYAN, FREDERICK W.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the appeal brief (09-22-04) and telephone interview (12-08-04).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18, 21-26 and 28-44.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

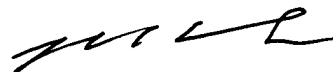
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 9-20-2002.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



JOHN G. WEISS
PATENT EXAMINER
CENTER 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

- 1) An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
- 2) Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Joseph C. Kirincich (Reg. No. 38,734) on December 8, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

Claims 19-20 have been **canceled** without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 15 have been **amended** as follows:

In Claim 1, line 2, --subsidized by a mail campaign sender-- has been inserted after "indicium".

In Claim 1, line 4, "a" before "mail campaign sender" has been changed to --the--.

In Claim 15, line 1, "accessible by" has been changed to --in operative communication with--.

The above changes to the claims have been made to correct the informalities and to clarify the applicant's invention so as to place the instant application in condition for allowance.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is deemed to be directed to an unobvious improvement over US 6,428,219 (Stier et al.).

W.R.T. Claim 1:

Stier et al. discloses a method of operating a data center (128) for generating postage indicium information for use with printing a postage indicium on a business reply mail piece (col. 4, line 57 – col. 5, line 37; col. 6, lines 26-67; for the mail campaign sender), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving postage indicium information at the postage metering system from the data center (128; see Fig. 10);

printing the postage indicium on the business reply mail piece at the postage metering system (122, 124) using the postage indicium information.

However, Stier et al. does not specifically disclose the method comprising:

transmitting a registration ID number, provided by the mail campaign sender to a user, from the postage metering system to a data center, the registration ID number being associated with a delivery address previously defined by the mail campaign sender;

the postage indicium information generated using the registration ID number; and
printing the postage indicium using the postage indicium information.

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W.R.T. Claim 4:

Stier et al. discloses a method of operating a data center (128) for generating postage indicium information for use with printing a postage indicium on a business reply mail piece (col. 6, lines 26-67; for the mail campaign sender), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a delivery address from a mail campaign sender (so as to print the address on the envelope, col. 4, line 57 – col. 5, line 37);

establishing a transaction session with a postage metering system (see Fig. 10);

receiving postage indicium information at the postage metering system from the data center (128; see Fig. 10); and

printing the postage indicium on the business reply mail piece at the postage metering system (122, 124) using the postage indicium information.

However, Stier et al. does not specifically disclose the method comprising:

generating and transmitting a registration ID number, which is corresponding to the delivery address previously defined by the mail campaign sender, to the data center; and

generating the postage indicium information using the registration ID number and including data relating the delivery address.

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W.R.T. Claim 9:

Stier et al. discloses a method of operating a business reply mail processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a delivery address, associated with a particular mail campaign which includes a business reply mail piece, to a data center (inherently, the delivery address must be provided to the data center so that the delivery address later can be printed on the envelop, col. 4, line 57 – col. 5, line 37);

receiving postage indicium information at the postage metering system from the data center (128; see Fig. 10); and

printing the postage indicium on the business reply mail piece at the postage metering system (122, 124) using the postage indicium information.

However, Stier et al. does not specifically disclose the method comprising:

generating and supplying a registration ID number, which is corresponding to the delivery address previously defined by the mail campaign sender, to the data center; and

generating the postage indicium information using the registration ID number and including data relating the delivery address.

W.R.T. Claim 15:

Stier et al. discloses a memory device assessable by a computing system, the memory device comprising:

a plurality of mail campaign sender accounts associated with respective mail campaign senders (inherently so as to process the business mailpieces, col. 4, line 57 – col. 5, line 37; col. 6, lines 1-57), wherein the postage indicium is printed on the business reply mail piece at the postage metering system (122, 124) using the postage indicium information.

However, Stier et al. does not disclose the memory device including: the each of the plurality of mail campaign sender accounts having a registration ID number associated with a delivery address and a particular mail campaign of which a business reply mail piece is a part.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

“On the drawing board: Online technology for high-volume mailers” is cited to show an integrated mail system for large business such that documents, re-printed sheets, accumulates and business reply mail are all inserted to a matching envelope in

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one operation. The device has capability to funnel information into a central server for integrated accounting and tracking of postage expenditure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Richard Woo
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December 10, 2004



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